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# ALSTON&BIRD LLP

101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 704-444-1000 Fax: 704-444-1111

## **TELECOPY**

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| December 7, 2005               |  |
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| Recipient:                     | Company:   |
| Examiner M. Haghighatian       | U.S. Patent & Trademark Office   |
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| (                              | OFFICIAL   |
| Petition and F<br>Appln.       | e to Species Election<br>fee for Extension of Time<br>. No. 10/609,233<br>ed: 06/27/2003 |
| Restriction Requi              | rement Mailed: 09/07/2005  |
| Numb                           | per of Pages: (including cover page) 4   |
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| CLIENT/MATTER: 048765/277090   | OPERATOR:  |

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Attorney's Docket No. 048765/277090

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Chaudry

Confirmation No.:

8210

Appl. No.: 10/609,233

Group Art Unit:

1616

Filed:

Examiner:

M. Haghighatian

For:

06/27/2003 INHALABLE FORMULATIONS FOR TREATING PULMONARY

HYPERTENSION AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#### RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2005, in which the Examiner has required an election between 4 species of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner has required election between the following species.

Species A: Various classes of pulmonary hypertension reducing agents. The relevant claims include 1, 18 - 22, 27, and 41 - 44.

Species B: Various added steps recited in claims 33-37.

Species C: Formulations in the form of a solution or a suspension. The relevant claims include 6-15 and 45-48.

Species D: Formulations comprising a preservative or being preservative-free. The relevant claims include 16 - 17 and 49 - 50.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute calcium-channel blocker for Species A, which includes Claims 1, 21, and 27; Claim 34 for Species B; suspension for Species C, which includes Claims 12-15 and 45-48; and a preservative for Species D, which includes Claims 16 and 49. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims. Applicant also requests that non-elected species be rejoined upon allowance of the elected species.

Applicant also notes that a Preliminary Amendment was filed concurrently with this election and includes new claims that are drawn to and read on the species elected above.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

Appl No.: 10/609,233 Amdt. dated 12/07/2005

Reply to Restriction Requirement of 09/07/2005

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Balts

Registration No. 51,429

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

## CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

Grase R. Rippy

December 7, 2005

Date